Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the title as follows:

A1

ELECTRONIC CAMERA ACHIEVING HIGHER FRAME SPEED

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 22, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

First, the microprocessor 20 makes a decision as to whether or not the shutter release switch 46 is in a fully pressed state (FIG. 8, ~~S1~~S101). When the shutter release switch 46 is pressed fully down, the microprocessor 20 first starts power supply to the curtain magnet 53 and then starts rotation of the sequence motor 25 (FIG. 8, ~~S2~~S102). It is to be noted that in this state, the curtain 52 sustains the closed state because of the mechanical retention effected by the charge mechanism 55.

A2

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 23, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

When these operations effected by the sequence motor 25 are completed, the sequence switch 48 shifts to an ON state. After verifying that the sequence switch 48 is now in an ON state (FIG. 8, ~~S3~~S103), the microprocessor 20 temporarily stops the sequence motor 25. At this point, the microprocessor 20 initializes the count value at the timer A and starts time count (FIG. 8, ~~S4~~S104).

A3

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 23, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The microprocessor 20 waits for a length of time t21 to elapse by monitoring the count value at the timer A (FIG. 8, ~~S5~~S105). When the length of time t21 elapses, the microprocessor 20 decides that the rebounding of the quick return mirror 14 has subsided to a sufficient degree and starts an electrical charge storage period by forcibly discharging any unnecessary electrical charge from the image capturing element 19. At this point, the

microprocessor 20 initializes the count value at the timer A to restart time count (FIG. 8, ~~S6~~S106).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 23, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The microprocessor 20 waits for the exposure time to elapse by monitoring the count value at the timer A (FIG. 8, ~~S7~~S107). During this process, when the exposure time elapses, the microprocessor 20 ends the electrical charge storage period by transferring the signal electrical charges stored at the photosensitive surface in a batch onto the transfer line. In addition, the microprocessor 20 cuts off the power supply to the curtain magnet 53 to cause the curtain 52 to run in the closing direction by the force applied to it (FIG. 8, ~~S8~~S108).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 24, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

When the curtain 52 completes its run and the shutter mechanism 51 becomes completely closed, the curtain closing switch 56 switches to an ON state. When the microprocessor 20 verifies that the curtain closing switch 56 has shifted to an ON state (FIG. 8, ~~S9~~S109), it supplies a drive pulse for electrical charge read to the image capturing element 19 to start a read of the signal electrical charge. In addition, the microprocessor 20 restarts the rotation of the sequence motor 25 at this point and then initializes the count value at the timer A to start time count (FIG. 8, ~~S10~~S110).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 24, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As the sequence motor 25 restarts its rotation in this manner, the mirror drive mechanism 26 lowers the quick return mirror 14. It is to be noted that the aperture drive mechanism 13 may reset the aperture to an open state during this period. when these operations effected by the sequence motor 25 are completed, the sequence switch 48 shifts to

an ON state. After verifying that the sequence switch 48 has shifted to an ON state (FIG. 8, ~~S11~~S111), the microprocessor 20 temporarily stops the sequence motor 25 (FIG. 8, ~~S12~~S112).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 25, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In this state, the microprocessor 20 waits for a length of time tf2 to elapse by monitoring the count value at the timer A (FIG. 8, ~~S13~~S113). This length of time tf2 represents the length of wait time set in advance in order to end the electrical charge read operation currently in progress before the exposure of the next frame starts with great reliability.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 25, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

When the length of time tf2 elapses, the microprocessor 20 makes a decision as to whether or not the shutter release switch 46 is in a fully pressed state (FIG. 8, ~~S14~~S114). At this point, if the fully pressed state has already been cleared, the microprocessor 20 ends the continuous shooting operation. If, on the other hand, the shutter release switch is still in the fully pressed state, the microprocessor 20 returns to the operation in step S2 to sustain the continuous shooting operation.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 27, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIG. 9 is a flowchart of the operations performed by the microprocessor 20 in the fourth embodiment. The operation achieved in the fourth embodiment is characterized as follows.

(1) As indicated in FIG. 9, ~~S2~~S201, the microprocessor 20 starts the timer A at the point in time at which the rotation of the sequence motor 25 starts.

(2) In this state, the microprocessor 20 monitors the switching state of the curtain closing switch (FIG. 9, ~~S3~~S202).

(3) The microprocessor 20 stores the count value at the timer A as a variable is when the curtain closing switch 56 shifts to an OFF state. This length of time is represents the length of time elapsing between the start of rotation of the sequence motor 25 and the ~~completionf~~ completion of the shutter charge operation performed by the charge mechanism 55. Based upon the length of time ts, tf2 = ty2 - (0.8•ts) is calculated to determine the wait time tf2 (FIG. 9, ~~S4~~S203).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 27, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

It is to be noted that ty2 in the formula above represents the length of time required for the signal electrical charge read, which is uniquely determined by the resolution at the image capturing element 19 and the frequency of the drive pulse. In addition, "0.8" in the formula above is a coefficient set to assure the safety of the operation timing and is a value slightly smaller than 1.

(4) In conformance to the wait time tf2 thus determined, the timing with which the rotation of the sequence motor 25 is started for the next frame is determined (FIG. 9, ~~S15~~S103).